# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:661
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2005
DISCREPANCIES IN PRICES OF MEDICINES
Mandal Shri Sanat Kumar

**Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government has formulated any policy at the national level on the pricing and availability of drugs to do away with discrepancies in prices of medicines in the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether it is noticed that the disparities in prices is benefiting the middlemen and affecting the poor patients; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/being taken to check the exploitation of patients by the druggists ?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS & MINISTER OF STEEL ( SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a)to(c) : The present pricing policy of the Government is being implemented by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 and the guidelines evolved by it from time to time.Subsequently, a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Adviser, Planning Commission was constituted to explore options other than price control to make available life saving drugs at reasonable prices. The Task Force submitted its rePort to the Government on the 20th September,

The Government in consultation with various stakeholders is examining the recommendations of the Task Force . Based on this a new Pharmaceutical Policy is likely to be announced shortly.The drug policy, as amended from time to time is directed towards ensuring abundant availability of quality drugs at reasonable prices.